Kms. has been completed. Approximately an amount of Rs.152 crore has been incurred and an estimated amount of Rs.145 crore is required to complete the balance work. This also includes the expenditure incurred on construction of border roads in the area.

(c) and (d) Delay in acquisition of land, non-alignment of fence, water logging in many parts of the area for better part of the year, change in course of rivers Khushiara and Surma, which run along the international border in the area are some of the reasons for slow progress of work in Assam Sector.

Terrorists in different parts of the country

†3004. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of terrorists have sneaked in different parts of the country as a part of their strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that terrorists have threatened to target Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir and other States and the Union Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Reports regarding sneaking of terrorists are received by the Government from time to time. Further, intelligence inputs indicating plans of various terrorist and militant groups to target Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir and other States and Union Ministers are also received. These threat inputs are shared with the concerned Central/State Government agencies for suitably strengthening the security of the threatened persons.

Usefulness of International Charter during Tsunami Disaster

3005. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Charter Space and Major Disasters of which India is a signatory was invoked during the recent Tsunami disaster;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the Charter was useful in supporting the mitigation and relief related activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The International Charter on Space and Major Disasters was invoked immediately after the Tsunami disaster. Under the charter, data from several satellites such as ENVISAT, SPOT and RADARSAT was received covering the affected regions in Tamil Nadu, UT of Andaman and Nicobar and the neighbouring countries of Maldives, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The microwave data from RADARSAT was found to be useful when integrated with Indian Remote Sensing satellite data for preparing inundation maps and assessing the damage in the affected areas.

Practice of branding women as witches

3005. DR. ABHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported recommendations voicing concern about continuing practice of branding women as witches and the insufficiency and inadequacy of the penalty provisions of law to prevent such crimes;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) Concerns about continuing practice of branding women as witches and the need for taking adequate measures to eliminate this evil practice have been raised from time to time. The 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, primarily the State Governments are responsible for preventing and controlling all crimes including crimes against the women. However, the Union Government has advised the State Governments to take strong action for eliminating the practice of branding women as witches, consider making laws more stringent, provide financial and health facilities in the villages to obviate the need for them to approach black magicians (witch doctors) and to rehabilitate the women branded as witches.